



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : F16G 15/12 // B21L 11/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 94/12807 (43) International Publication Date: 9 June 1994 (09.06.94)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE93/01022 (22) International Filing Date: 26 November 1993 (26.11.93) (30) Priority Data: 9203572-4 27 November 1992 (27.11.92) SE (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): FÄGERSTEN & CO. AB [SE/SE]; Kontrabasgatan 12, S-421 50 Västra Frölunda (SE). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): YNGVESSON, Stig-Rune [SE/SE]; P.O. Box 64, S-430 92 Fotö (SE). (74) Agents: GRAUDUMS, Valdis et al.; Albihn West AB, P.O. Box 142, S-401 22 Göteborg (SE).		(81) Designated States: AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, HU, JP, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LU, LV, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SK, UA, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>With amended claims.</i> <i>In English translation (filed in Swedish).</i>
(54) Title: CHAIN LINK, CONNECTING PART FOR CHAIN LINKS AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF (57) Abstract <p>The invention relates to a chain link and a method for the production thereof as well as a chain consisting of connected chain links and a connecting part for connecting chain links. The chain link consists of an endless elongated rod-like part (1) which is characterized in that it is shaped as two pairs of loops (2, 3 and 4, 5) wherein the loops in each pair are substantially parallel and the pairs are arranged in two planes which are turned through 90° with respect to each other. The connecting part consists of a semi-finished chain link and the chain consists of connected chain links as well as possibly connecting parts.</p> <div data-bbox="1031 1144 1421 1575" data-label="Image"> </div>		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	GB	United Kingdom	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GE	Georgia	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BE	Belgium	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BY	Belarus	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LV	Latvia	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TG	Togo
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DE	Germany	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
DK	Denmark	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	UZ	Uzbekistan
FR	France			VN	Viet Nam
GA	Gabon				

5 CHAIN LINK, CONNECTING PART FOR CHAIN LINKS AND METHOD
FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF.

10 TECHNICAL FIELD:

The present invention relates to a chain link and a method
for the production thereof and comprises chain links made
of different materials such as steel and plastics. Chain
15 links according to the present invention can be used in an
unlimited number of applications.

PRIOR ART:

20 Chains are commonly known. They consist of ring- or loop-
shaped links usually of steel which have been threaded into
each other and thereafter welded together so that they
consist of a continuous unit which cannot easily be taken
apart. The chain link can also consist of materials other
25 than steel having the desired strength and corrosion
resistance depending on the intended field of use.

Chains are used all over in a number of quite different
areas. One such area is on boats, for example on fishing
30 boats. There the chains are primarily used for fastening
the trawl to a trawl board in the boat. Such a trawl is
usually attached at two points on the boat by means of
chains which branch out and which by means of straps and
the like are connected to the trawl itself at a number of
35 points. In this connection it is important that the
different length of the chains can be adapted so that the
trawl is connected properly.

TECHNICAL PROBLEM:

When for instance on a fishing boat the length of the chain has to be adjusted to make the trawl function optimally, chain links have to be added or removed, which due to the movements of the boat is very laborious. It may also be necessary to replace chain links due to wear. The work is usually done on deck by means of a cutting torch or other types of cutting tools which opens the chain link so that replacement and adjustment can be carried out. During this work no fishing can be done and all work has to be done under stress which can result many cut and burn injuries.

THE SOLUTION:

There has therefore always been a strong desire to be able to adjust the length of a chain in a simpler way than that described above without the help of cutting or other tools. According to the invention a chain link has therefore been produced consisting of an endless elongated rod-like part which is characterized in that it has been formed as two pairs of loops, wherein the loops in every pair are substantially parallel, and in that the pairs are arranged in two planes which are turned through 90° with respect to each other.

According to the invention the two pair of loops should have the same dimension.

It is further suitable according to the invention that the parallel loops are located at a certain distance from each other corresponding approximately to the thickness of the rod. They can, however, also lie tight against each other and be welded together.

According to the invention the chain link can be made for example of wrought steel or thermoplastics, preferably ultra-high molecular crystalline polyamide 6.

5 The invention also comprises a chain consisting of connected chain links according to the claims as well as possibly one or more connecting parts.

10 A connecting part for connecting the chain links is also comprised in the invention and is characterized in that it consists of a semifinished chain link and is made of an endless elongated rod having two parallel straight portions merging into a loop at each end.

15 The invention also comprises a method for the production of chain links according to the invention, the method being characterized in that an endless elongated rod having two parallel straight portions merging into a loop at each end is first moulded or extruded whereupon the two straight
20 portions are bent into loops in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the moulded loops.

25 According to the invention it is suitable that the material in the rod consists of crystalline ultra-high molecular thermoplastics and that the bending is carried out during, at most, 5-10 seconds after the first shaping whilst the rod still is hot, for example 60°C.

FIGURE DESCRIPTION:

30

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the drawings, in which

35 Fig. 1 shows a chain link according to the invention in perspective,

Fig. 2 shows a chain consisting of three links and where the fourth link being mounted,
Fig. 3 shows a second embodiment of the chain link and
Fig. 4 shows a connecting part according to the invention.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS:

In Fig. 1 a chain link according to the invention is shown in perspective. It consists of an endless elongated rod 1 which has been bent so that it includes two pairs of loops 2, 3 and 4, 5. The loops of each pair of loops 2, 3 and 4, 5 are located at some distance from each other, suitably at approximately the same distance as the thickness of the rod 1. The loop pairs 2, 3 and 4, 5 have approximately the same dimensions and they are turned through 90° with respect to each other.

The chain links according to the invention can be threaded into each other as shown in Fig. 2. This occurs in a simple way by using the distance between the two loops in a pair of loops and threading this pair of loops in around the rods in a pair of loops in another chain link. The new chain link is inserted completely and the first inserted pair of loops in this chain link will then be accessible for connection to a further chain link and so on. In this way it is possible to quickly couple together a great number of chain links. The outermost link at every end has a free pair of loops which can be used for attaching the link to a suitable location. The chain can as is apparent, be put together in a very simple way but it stays together and can not be taken apart without starting with the chain link which is located outermost. The chain link can also be constructed so that it fits in a usual chain eye.

Fig. 3 shows another embodiment of the chain according to the present invention. In this embodiment the pair of loops 4, 5 and 2, 3 lie tightly against each other. It is then not possible to insert the chain links into each other if they are not made of such an elastic material that the loop pairs can be sprung apart during assembly. After assembly the pair of loops can be welded together to each other at suitable such as for example indicated at 6. In this case a chain which is much stronger than a chain according to the first embodiment and conventional chains is produced. The loops in this embodiment which can be called a security chain are suitably made oblong so that any deformation of them by strong tension in the chain will not occur. In this chain link having double pair of loops, only one weld for connection of the rod ends to each other is present. This means that only one in four rod parts which cooperates under the tension has a weld which makes an enormous improvement since the chain links normally break at the weld.

The invention also comprises a semi-finished chain link which is shown in Fig. 4 and can be used as a connection part between two chain links. This connection part is shown in Fig. 4 and comprises two parallel straight portions 7 and 8 which at each end merge into the loops 9 and 10. This endless connecting part can, by means of the loops 9 and 10, be connected to the pair of loops 2, 3 and 4, 5 in the chain links. The loops 9 and 10 suitably have the same dimensions as the loops 2, 3 and 4, 5 in the chain links. The loops 9 and 10 shown in Fig. 4 should form a pair of loops if the straight portions 7 and 8 are bent for forming a further pair of loops. The advantage of using such a connecting part is that it becomes at least twice as long as the chain link which can be advantageous in certain applications. The connection part can of course, if

desired, be made much longer which however makes it necessary to provide a special tool for this part.

5 The chain link according to the present invention can consist of any suitable material, preferably however of wrought steel or thermoplastics. The thermoplastics must, however, have very specific properties and it must consist of a crystalline plastics having low viscosity and high molecular chains. Such a material is polyamide 6.

10 For the production of such a chain link according to the invention an endless elongated thread having two parallel straight portion which merge into a loop at each end is first produced by extrusion in a tool or by some kind of a
15 moulding process. The temperature during the extruding or moulding is dependent on the polymer used. After forming the still hot rod link is bent in a special bending fixture where the two straight portions are bent parallel and simultaneously so that they will be transformed into the
20 second pair of loops. It is very important that the bending occurs quickly from the time where the rod link is removed from the first forming tool, preferably 5-10 seconds after the removal whilst the rod still has a temperature of approximately 60°C. The bending procedure is carried out
25 until the preformed loops in the first step are lying tight against each other and the finished chain link is allowed to remain in the bending tool until it has cooled down which takes about 5 minutes. After removal from the tool the compressed pair of loops depart somewhat from each
30 other so that the final desired form is obtained.

The chain link can also be manufactured directly in a tool without resultant bending. The tool will then be more complicated but the elasticity of the plastics allows
35 removal of the chain link from the tool anyway.

If other materials than thermoplastics are used in the chain link, some other method of production may be advantageous but a steel chain link can also be produced in the same way as a link made of plastics according to the
5 above, but then with other temperature and pressure conditions.

By the present invention a chain link, a chain, a connecting part and a method for the production of these
10 parts is obtained which gives a cheap, very simple and strong as well as suitable chain. It can advantageously be used for example on fishing boats whereby for example the working time for replacement, lengthening or shortening of chains can be reduced by about 90%, obtaining at the same
15 time a minimal risk of accidents.

Due to the possibility of quickly being able to lengthen or shorten the chain, the possibility of using it in a great number of applications is also obtained. It can for example
20 be used for road blocks by simply extending the chain if the road is too broad for a certain chain, or a pair of completed chains can be coupled together by means of the connecting part. The chain is also strong in that it is double, along the whole length if the connecting part is
25 not used.

If an extremely strong chain is desired it is possible to use the embodiment having lying pairs of loops lying tight against each other which gives a chain which is almost
30 twice as strong as a corresponding conventional chain made of the same material.

The invention is not limited to the shown embodiments but can be varied in different ways within the scope of the
35 claims.

5 CLAIMS:

1. Chain link consisting of an endless elongated rod-like part 1, characterized in that it is formed as two pairs of loops (2, 3) and (4, 5), wherein the loops in each pair are substantially parallel and the pairs are arranged in two planes which are turned through 90° with respect to each other.

2. Chain link according to claim 1, characterized in that the two pair of loops (2, 3) and (4, 5) have the same dimension.

3. Chain link according to any of the claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the parallel loops (2, 3) and (4, 5) have a distance from each other corresponding approximately to the thickness of the rod (1).

4. Chain link according to any of the claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the parallel loops (2, 3) and (4, 5) lie tight against each other.

5. Chain link according to claim 4, characterized in that the parallel loops (2, 3) and (4, 5) are welded together.

6. Chain link according to any of the claims 1-5, characterized in that it has been made of wrought steel or thermoplastics, preferably high molecular crystalline polyamide 6 having a low viscosity.

7. Chain consisting of coupled chain links according to any of the claims 1-6, possibly with one or more connecting parts.

5 8. Connecting part for connecting chain links according to any of the claims 1-6, characterized in that it is consisted of a semi-finished chain link and consists of an endless elongated rod having two parallel straight portions (7) and (8) merging at each end into a
10 loop (9, 10).

9. Method for the production of a chain link according to any of the claims 1-6, characterized in that an endless rod (1) having two parallel straight
15 portions (7, 8) merging into a loop (9, 10) at each end is initially moulded or extruded, whereupon the two straight portions (7, 8) are bent into loops in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the moulded loops.

20 10. Method according to claim 9, characterized in that the material in the rod (1) consists of a crystalline high molecular thermoplastics having a low viscosity and that the bending is carried out during, at most, 5-10 seconds after the initial forming
25 whilst the rod is still hot, for example 60°C.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 14 April 1994 (14.04.94);
original claims 1-10 replaced by amended claims 1-9; (2 pages)]

5

1. Chain link consisting of an endless elongated rod-like part 1, characterized in that it is formed as two pairs of loops (2, 3) and (4, 5), wherein the
10 loops in each pair are substantially parallel and the pairs are arranged in two planes which are turned through 90° with respect to each other, the two pair of loops (2, 3) and (4, 5) having the same dimension.

15 2. Chain link according to claim 1, characterized in that the parallel loops (2, 3) and (4, 5) have a distance from each other corresponding approximately to the thickness of the rod (1).

20 3. Chain link according to any of the claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the parallel loops (2, 3) and (4, 5) lie tight against each other.

25 4. Chain link according to claim 3, characterized in that the parallel loops (2, 3) and (4, 5) are welded together.

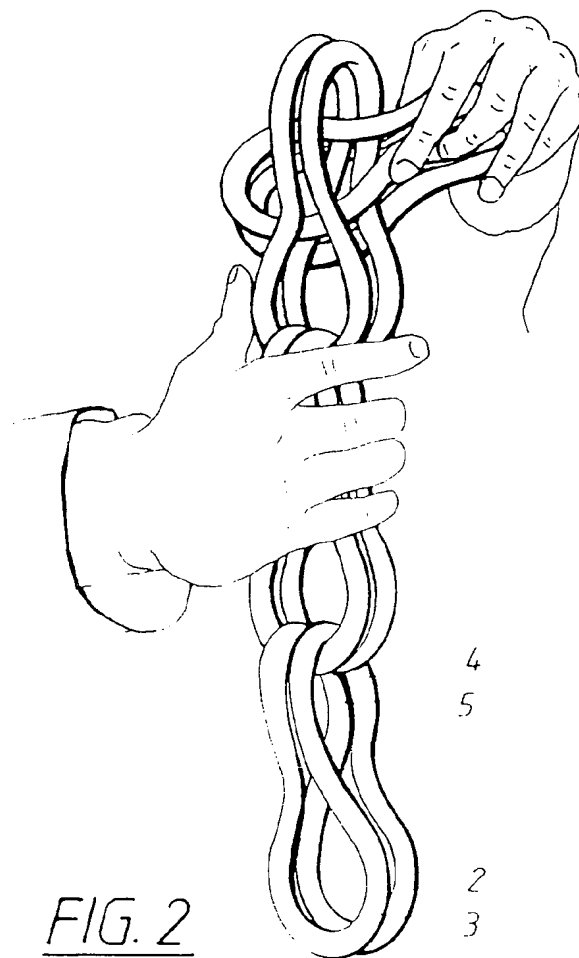
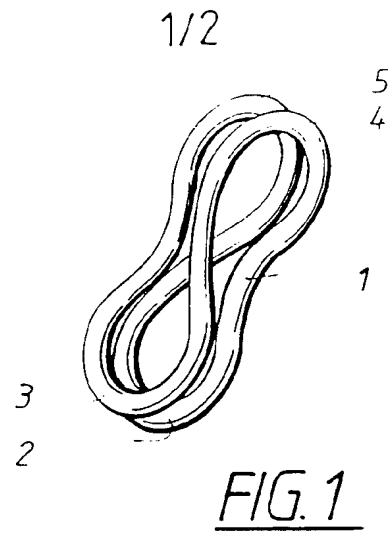
30 5. Chain link according to any of the claims 1-4, characterized in that it has been made of wrought steel or thermoplastics, preferably high molecular crystalline polyamide 6 having a low viscosity.

35 6. Chain consisting of coupled chain links according to any of the claims 1-5, possibly with one or more connecting parts.

7. Connecting part for connecting chain links according to any of the claims 1-5, characterized in that it is consisted of a semi-finished chain link and consists of an endless elongated rod having two parallel straight portions (7) and (8) merging at each end into a loop (9, 10).

8. Method for the production of a chain link according to any of the claims 1-5, characterized in that an endless rod (1) having two parallel straight portions (7, 8) merging into a loop (9, 10) at each end is initially moulded or extruded, whereupon the two straight portions (7, 8) are bent into loops in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the moulded loops.

9. Method according to claim 8, characterized in that the material in the rod (1) consists of a crystalline high molecular thermoplastics having a low viscosity and that the bending is carried out during, at most, 5-10 seconds after the initial forming whilst the rod is still hot, for example 60°C.



2/2

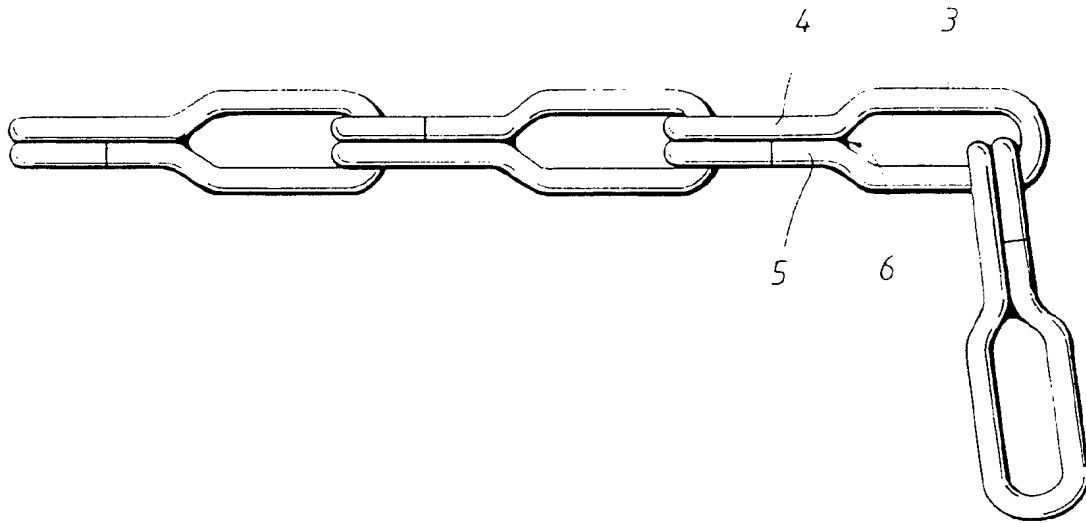


FIG. 3

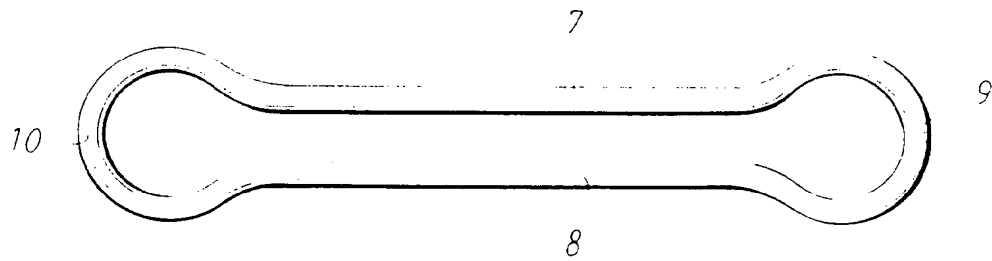


FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/01022

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC5: F16G 15/12 // B21L 11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC5: B21L, F16G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CLAIMS, WPI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 1257398 (C.J. ROACH), 26 February 1918 (26.02.18) --	1,7,8
X	US, A, 1372693 (C.W. HODGES), 29 March 1921 (29.03.21) --	1-4,7,8
X	US, A, 2840983 (P.C. KEILBACH), 1 July 1958 (01.07.58) --	1,7,8
X	US, A, 4056928 (DE VRIES), 8 November 1977 (08.11.77) --	1,7,8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 March 1994

Date of mailing of the international search report

10-03-1994

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

Swedish Patent Office

Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM

Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Sune Söderling

Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/01022

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 2714798 (C.D. LINNENBANK), 9 August 1955 (09.08.55) --	5,6
X	US, A, 3673794 (I'ANSON), 4 July 1972 (04.07.72) --	9
X	DE, C, 328718 (LEONHARD TREUHEIT), 2 November 1920 (02.11.20) --	9
X	DE, C, 330604 (LEONHARD TREUHEIT), 18 December 1920 (18.12.20) --	9
X	EP, A1, 0063533 (REXNORD INC.), 27 October 1982 (27.10.82) -- -----	10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

28/01/94

International application No.
PCT/SE 93/01022

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A-	1257398	26/02/18	NONE	
US-A-	1372693	29/03/21	NONE	
US-A-	2840983	01/07/58	NONE	
US-A-	4056928	08/11/77	BE-A- 841413 DE-A- 2635709 GB-A- 1479265 NL-A- 7510815	01/09/76 17/03/77 13/07/77 17/03/77
US-A-	2714798	09/08/55	NONE	
US-A-	3673794	04/07/72	NONE	
DE-C-	328718	02/11/20	NONE	
DE-C-	330604	18/12/20	NONE	
EP-A1-	0063533	27/10/82	AU-B- 554273 AU-A- 8163782 CA-A- 1180905 JP-A- 57180515	14/08/86 07/10/82 15/01/85 06/11/82